The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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WORKER TAKES PHOTO; CITED FOR CONTEMPT

Toledo, Ohio, Jan. 20.—Federal Judge Killits' injunction against the striking electrical workers has been violated, and International Vice President Hugniard of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has been cited for contempt of court.

The trade unionist took pictures of strikebreakers at work and his honor holds that this is a violation of his order against violent picketing or interference with the company's property.

The telephone girls' strike, called to enforce a living wage scale and the electrical workers struck in sympathy, Judge Killets is more insistent that strikers have the right to picket in a peaceful manner, but he has the notion, apparently, that there is no police statutes governing violence, so he has protected society against this overslight of lawmakers.

Attorneys for the strikers are demanding that Judge Killets modify his picketing, that the court pleads not to crowd him too far lest he may be forced to pass on the constitutionality of the Clayton law, which, he hints, creates a favored class in this country. The court is most insistent that freedom of service be continued for the benefit of the public, but when his attention is called to the cause of the strike—the struggle of working girls for a wage in excess of $6 a week—he says he is that the court has nothing to do with this phase of the question.

Judge Killets' attitude toward trade unionism was illustrated last May while a delegate to the conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Hot Springs, when a committee, after lauding the work of organized labor, reported that "preference should be given labor" in the church's printing offices. This recommendation was stricken out by the conference after a heated discussion. The opposition was led by Judge Killets, whose denunciation of organized labor could not be excelled by the most avowed anti-unionist. While no scholar or thinker uses the term "open shop" in connection with economic questions, Judge Killets' repeated use of these words indicates that he is thoroughly sold with the purposes of a trick term that has been invented by trade union opponents in an effort to cover anti-unionism with the cloak of frothy patriotism.

EIGHT HOURS FOR MUNITIONS.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 20.—The Connecticut Labor Press, published in this city, says:

"The Winchester Repeating Arms plant will be, within a few years, an eight-hour shop. Already some of the departments are on the eight-hour schedule with the rest of the employes on an eight-hour basis, the average worker, man or woman, getting nothing from 10 to 12 hours in hours.

"The reason for the shops going onto eight hours is given, unofficially of course, as an aid to the general conduct of work in the entire. The real reason, according again to unofficial reports, is that the Winchester people lost a big contract with the United States government, totalling almost $1,000,000, because it was not an eight-hour shop, and therefore, was not able to turn out a government contract."

REAL PREPAREDNESS

San Francisco, Jan. 20.—Editor Scharrenberg of the Coast Seamen's Journal calls attention to the affirmation by the last seamen's convention of the principle of low insurance rates and high dues.

"Labor organizations that try to maintain 'preparedness,'" says this paper, "on low dues and high initiation fees are ineffective and impotent to carry out the requirements of the present-day industrial struggle, and the sooner they change their tactics the better will this be better. For when the history of the world's labor movement is analyzed, it will be found that the unions with high dues have been the most successful in increasing wages, shortening hours and generally improving conditions for their members."

MOLDERS MAKE STEADY GAINS.

Cincinnati, Jan. 20.—Editor Frey of the International Molders' Journal makes a record of steady gains by that organization since 1891, when conference agreements were established.

"The first advance, amounting to 10 per cent, took place April 1, 1899, and followed in April, 1900, 5 per cent more was added. In April, 1902, another 5 per cent, and in April, 1907, 5 per cent more. On January 1, 1911, another 5 per cent was added, and on January 1, 5 per cent more. This made 35 per cent, or its equivalent, upon 1899 prices and the advance established at the recent conference with the Stove Founders' National Defense association increased this percentage from 35 to 60 per cent."

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 20.—Painters' union No. 164 reports that employers are accepting, its new wage scale, which raises wages to 45 cents an hour, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sunday and holiday work.

Youngstown, Ohio, Jan. 20.—Contractors have agreed to pay the new wage scale of Painter's union. Rates will be 50 cents an hour for eight hours, eight months of the year the work week will be five and one-half days and six days for the remaining four months.

DON'T KNOW THEIR BUSINESS.

Cincinnati, Jan. 20.—In an address to the chamber of commerce, Secretary Hurley declared that "90 per cent of the manufacturers don't know what it costs them to produce their goods."

This statement is of interest to trade unionists in view of the fact that American business organizations were practically united in urging the last congress to favor the Taylor system and other speeding processes in government workshops.

These business men cried long and loud for "efficiency."

BROOM MAKERS ORGANIZE.

Chicago, Jan. 19.—Secretary-Treasurer Boyer of the Broom and Whisk Makers' International Union reports that locals have been organized in New York city, Louisville and Colton, Cal.

BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

Pittston, Pa., Jan. 20.—After a two-days' strike brewery workers in this city have returned to work. Wages are increased $1 a week.

RAILROADS USE OLD ARGUMENT.

Cleveland, Jan. 20.—The Railroad Trainman, official magazine of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, quotes the Congressional Record to show that the railroads have always used the same argument, whenever legislation intended to protect employes or improve service was advocated.

In 1893, when the safety appliance act was passed, the railroads were opposed at the proposal to compel them to use automatic couplers. One congressman, Mr. Washington of Tennessee, declared: "If we require the 1,000,000 freight cars, amounting to $100,000,000, does not begin to fully measure the financial cost of this piece of experimental legislation to the railroads of the country.

"For the congress of the United States," continued this lawmaker, "to deliberately require railroads to expend $100,000,000 in putting appliances upon their existing equipment within the next five years, or the next two years, is certainly a most remarkable piece of legislation.

"If this proposition is constitutional and right then the door is wide open for absolute control of all private enterprises. The question is but a short step to government ownership of all the instruments of interstate commerce and transportation and imperialism will but at hand."

NEED FOR CONSERVATION.

Washington, Jan. 20.—In calling attention to the need for conservation legislation, committees representing the Chamber of Commerce of the United States declare that during the last 25 years the danger in industrial life and limb has grown in breadth and intensity, and that there are annually 25,000 deaths in this country as a result of industrial accidents.

In the conservation of natural resources it is stated that only about 40 per cent of the total volume of timber as it stands in the forest now reaches the ultimate consumer, and that the remainder is being wasted. Millions of barrels of oil are lost annually because a solid market existed in connection with natural gas and many other natural resources. The director of the federal bureau of mines is quoted as saying that about 40 per cent of the coal in the seam is lost, so far as beneficial utilization is concerned.

SEVEN-HOUR DAY FAVORED.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 20.—The state convention of the United Mine Workers' union has declared for a seven-hour day and a five-day week. President John Moore prescribed the plan in his annual report. He said the statistics prove that miners working five days of seven hours each a week produce practically as much coal for domestic use and for industrial purposes. Employment would be more steady by such a change, he contended.

Ohio produced between 21,000,000 and 22,000,000 tons of coal last year, the largest production ever known, but in 1913, when the total tonnage reached 36,000,000. Car shortage prevented the production of 15,000,000 tons. At many mines men, ready to work six days a week, were kept busy only half that time.

SHIRT MAKERS STRIKE.

New York, Jan. 20.—Nearly 10,000 shirt makers employed in 250 factories have suspended work on the order of the executive board of the Shirt and Boys' Waist Workers' union, affiliated to the United Garment Workers' union.

The demands include a 20 per cent increase for all piece workers and a $2 per week increase for day workers, and one-half for piece workers for all work done in excess of 50 hours; no work on Sunday or after 1 noon on Saturday; all employes to be members of the union; no member of the union to receive less than $6 a week.

Many employers have accepted this scale and their employes have returned to work.

HOW TO ENFORCE ADAMSON LAW

Washington, Jan. 20.—In a supplemental brief filed in the United States Supreme court in the case of the Adamson law, the government makes suggestions for machinery to put the law into effect. Under existing railroad wage contracts, the brief declares, the phrases "day's work" and "day's wage" have a well recognized meaning in most freight service contracts to be "100 miles or 10 hours or an hour." By substituting 12 1-2 mile per hour speed basis for the existing 100 miles or 10 hour day scale, the brief asserted, the Adamson eight-hour standard can be generally put into practical operation.

ASK REMEDIAL LEGISLATION.

Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 20.—The state federation of labor has prepared its demand for remedial legislation, on behalf of Iowa's wage earners. The list includes a recognition that labor is not a commodity and that certain injunctions shall be prohibited; to provide for an eight-hour day on all work, municipal and municipally created; the office of state building inspector.

OPPOSE "CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW.

Denver, Jan. 20.—At a meeting of the joint legislative committee of the state federation of labor and the railroad brotherhoods it was unanimously agreed that the repeal of Colorado's "can't strike" law is of first importance to the working people and that all other legislation shall be secondary.

LOW-WAGED WORKERS STRIKE.

Joliet, Ill., Jan. 20.—Unorganized workers employed by the National Carton company are on strike for a wage increase of $1 a week. The old rates were $11 and $14. The factory is being refilled with young girls. Work at the plant is of the most laborious kind.

DOCK WORKERS RAISE WAGES.

Galveston, Tex., Jan. 20.—Dock workers employed by the Southern Pacific railroad have raised wages 5 cents an hour for straight time, overtime and Sundays. The new scale is 35, 50 and 65 cents respectively.

A TUBERCULOSIS ENEMY.

Washington, Jan. 21.—In a bulletin issued by the federal public health service that locals have been organized in New York city, Louisville and Colton, Cal.

"Do you know that the full pail service is the great enemy of tuberculosis?"

MOLDERS WANT $4 A DAY.

Stockton, Cal., Jan. 20.—Iron molders are on strike for a nine-hour shop and a $4 a day minimum.

ARBITRATION ACT SECURES RAISE.

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 20.—"These statistics show organized labor to be more prosperous and enjoying shorter hours of labor and better wages than the unorganized," says Commissioner Clary in his biennial report on labor conditions in this state.

He says that at least 10 per cent of the unorganized are receiving as low as $1.50 a day, and women even less, and one-half of these workers are men of families.

"It seems to us," continues the state official, "impossible for a man to support his family and educate his children on $1.50 a day, yet these conditions exist. To better these conditions we heartily indorse organized labor. Our organizations have become a part of our latter-day civilization and the right of the working man to organize through his labor organization with his employer must be upheld. As an individual, the wage earner has little power to determine the wage he is to receive, yet he is compelled to purchase the product of his own labor and pay whatever is demanded from him for it, and his only opportunity for betterment is through his organization and his fellow workmen. Organized labor has done much for the wage earners of Arkansas. It is by constant, persistent efforts that we have the labor laws we now have on our statutes."

VIOLATES NINE-HOUR LAW.

Beaumont, Tex., Jan. 20.—Federal officials have filed suits against the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad for violating the nine-hour law, which provides that no telegraph operator handling train orders shall be employed more than nine hours in any day in an office that is operated continuously. The suits involve penalties aggregating $10,000. The government cites 20 separate violations of the law between May 6 and 16 inclusive and declares that operators have been forced to work 12 hours a day.

President Ripley of this railroad has attracted some attention because of his opposition to the Adamson law and the present session of congress that his disregard for all legislation of this character has affected his subordinates.

SCHOOL HOUSES ARE FIRE TRAPS

Boston, Jan. 20.—Seven cities in Massachusetts have school houses that are not of which the state inspection authorities will certify as safe, according to the report of a legislative committee, which has carefully investigated the condition of school houses throughout the state.

The cities referred to are Chicopee, Gloucester, Lynn, Medford, Melrose, Newburyport and Newton.

"Many cities and towns," says the report, "have disregarded orders from state inspectors which would have rendered the lives of the children of the state safer, and it is undoubtedly true in some cases, as it has been hitherto charged, that many factories in this state are fire traps, having been built at various times during the last 100 years."

WANT DIRECT LEGISLATION.

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 20.—Trade unionists would end the practice of the state legislature weakening the initiative and referendum law by the passage of laws of legislation "emergency," thereby making it impossible, under the direct legislation act, for the people to pass on same.

Petitions are now being circulated to amend the constitution so that no emergency clause shall not attach the emergency clause to a law unless an emergency really exists, and then by the vote of three-fourths of the members elected.

Another amendment would prevent the legislature from repealing measures adopted by the people by a two-thirds majority. Legislation initiated, it is also provided, shall not be subject to veto.

"SOCIAL JUSTICE" DEFINED.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 20.—In his inaugural message Governor Lowden gave this definition of "social justice," which is in addition to the theory that our salvation lies in law:

"Social justice does not consider alone the defective and incompetents of society. It recognizes that, after all, the business of civilization is carried forward by the great mass of independent, self-respecting citizens, and that from them flows all government. A paternalism which considers only the weaker members of society is not social justice in the broader and truer sense. It is simply the rugged independence of these men and women would ultimately defeat its own ends."

BONUS TYPIFIES CHARITY.

New York, Jan. 20. — "The bonus stands for dependence and the trade agreement for independence," says the Garment Worker, official paper of the United Garment Workers' union.

"When a wage increase or any other concession is secured through trade union activity and collective bargaining, the workers are able to stand upon their rights as free men and women in demanding justice and equity, and it is only where this situation exists that those who earn their living by manual labor are free men and women in every sense of the word."

ABOLISHES CONTRACT MINING.

Pittston, Pa., Jan. 20.—It is stated that the Delaware, Lackawanna Coal company has practically abolished its contract system of mining and has established the "company" system in its mines. The latter is favored by the United Mine Workers' union, under the terms of which the company let out to a contract miner a certain section of the undercrount owners and the contractor employed miners to work under him.

WOULD INCLUDE FARM EMPLOY

San Francisco, Jan. 20.—The industrial accident commission has recommended that the state legislature extend the benefits of the workmen's compensation act to farm employes. These workers and domestics are the only large classes of employes not included in the act.

NEW COSSACK SYSTEM.

Boston, Jan. 20.—A commission appointed to investigate the question of a state constabulary finds that the Pennsylvania and New York systems, a separate troop of cossacks in connection with the state police militia in times of strike can be obviated if all police are placed under state control.

FUR WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Minneapolis, Jan. 20.—Fur workers organized and have secured a union shop agreement with the largest furrier in the city. Wages are increased from 11 to 14c for a 50-hour week and time and one-half for overtime.

URGE PORTO RICO SUFFRAGE.

Washington, Jan. 20.—During the past week the senate has considered the bill intended to provide a government for Porto Rico. Representatives of the American Federation of Labor have made strong protests against the property qualifications provided in this bill and these objections are now being raised by senators. If the bill is passed as proposed by the committee no person can be elected to the Porto Rico senate unless he owns taxable property to the value of $1,000, and in the case of election to the house of representatives a property qualification of $500 is called for.

In urging free suffrage in this island trade unionists object, will disfranchise three out of every four voters.

In urging the passage of this bill before the senate committee having this bill in charge, President Iglesias, of the Free Federation of Workingmen of Porto Rico, said:

"Popular suffrage must not be restricted and all citizens, adults, men of 21 years of age or over, should have the right of voting for elective offices in all the branches of the government.

"The people of Porto Rico exercised the franchise for the last 16 years, and even under the Spanish monarchy. Such rights were accorded to our people by the cortes of Spain and our local legislature, and now the congress of the United States is being advised to take away those rights that our people enjoy and possess."

DEMOCRACY AND EDUCATION.

Berkeley, Cal., Jan. 20.—In a paper on "Democracy and Education," Professor Howerth, University of California, indicates why trade unionism among educational teachers is opposed and why free speech is so often denied by educational authorities. He says:

"The people will encourage education only so far as its aim is consistent with the maintenance of their institutions and they will support the school to bolster up their privileges and their power to exploit labor. Witness the fly in the ointment with respect to some of the present agitation for industrial and vocational education and for military training in the public schools.

"We shall talk all we like, then, about the ideal aims of education—character, self-realization, harmonious development, social efficiency and the like; it is a harmless kind of speculation. But when we come to interpret these aims we are likely to awaken the hostility of the most substantial elements of the community."

HOW COURTS TIE WORKERS.

Chicago, Jan. 20.—"This is one more instance in which the decision of a judge, though reversed by a higher court, has driven many workmen to personal bankruptcy," declares Secretary Perkins of Federal Judge Anderson's injunction which restrained Indianapolis street car men from striking. Judge Anderson's order was issued September 4, 1914, was reversed January 2, 1917, on the ground that his court lacked jurisdiction. During these long judicial months the Indianapolis Traction company locked out its union employes and forced the end of the dispute in still on.

FAVORS COMPENSATION.

Dover, Del., Jan. 20.—In his annual message Governor Miller has the following to say about workmen's compensation:

"If not present, the time is not far distant when Delaware will be required to follow the example of many other states and place upon her statute books a workmen's compensation law.

"Such legislation should provide adequate compensation to workmen injured in the course of their employment without requiring resort to unfair burdens upon the employer."

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Jan. 20.—The federal bureau of immigration reports that 301,339 immigrants arrived in this country during the month of November, last year, against 28,297 during November, 1915.

The effect of the European war is shown in the latest report, which states only 12 immigrants came from Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro and Roumania. During November, 1913, and prior to the war, immigration from these four countries totaled 1,582. The report also shows that all arrivals during November, 1913, was 117,031.

CEREAL WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Jan. 20.—Employes of the Quaker Oats company have organized and are chartered by the A. F. of L. as Cereal Mill Employes' union, No. 16,000. These employes suspended work a short time ago and it was later agreed that their wage demands would be submitted to the company's Chicago office and if the reply was not satisfactory to the workers the matter would be arbitrated.

BONUS ANNULS CONTRACT.

Wheeling, W. Va., Jan. 20.—The Wheeling Traction company recently refused to renew a bonus system and now the Street Car Men's union calls the company's refusal a breach of existing agreements. The workers refuse to accept the bonus system, which depends upon the company's good will, and have presented a demand for wage increases.

ROADS AGREE ON RATES.

New York, Jan. 20.—At a hearing on the alleged discrimination in rates by railroads between New York and New Jersey before Interstate Commerce Commissioner Clark, it was shown that the present rates were decided upon through a "gentlemen's agreement," and by the Baltimore & Ohio, the Pennsylvania and the New York Central railroads.

DEATHS IN THE MINES.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 20.—Nearly 1,000 miners lost their lives in this state last year, the exact figures being 657 in the bituminous mines and 340 in the anthracite fields. The total number of men employed in the state was 227,166, or one death to approximately 330 men in the mining of 258,000,000 net tons.

ASBESTOS WORKERS GAIN.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 20.—A new agreement secured by asbestos workers' union increases wages and provides for the Saturday half holiday.

LITERACY TEST IS BEST PLAN.

Chicago, Jan. 20.—In an editorial favoring the literacy test in the pending immigration restriction bill, the Chicago Tribune says editorially that the fact that friends of the test agree it is not ideal, but that opponents fail to offer a better one.

"If a better check can be devised," says this paper, "it will be welcomed, but as a matter of fact the opponents of the literacy test are opposed to any real check upon immigration.

"Those who believe, as the Tribune does, that the republic needs a long period of assimilation before it can safely open the doors upon the alien influx which may come after the war. Sentimentalists, internationalists and more selfish forces that profit by immigration in one way or another will have a greater influence at Washington. They are better organized. It is one of the serious weaknesses of our national psychology that it still fails to grasp this phase of national defense. An intense and inspiring nationality exists among every great people except our c n. We are the clay pot among the metal ones."

R. R. PROFITS INCREASE.

Washington, Jan. 20.—Last October was the banner month for railroad operations in the history of the country, reports the interstate commerce commission, whose returns, based upon returns from all railroads in the United States, covering 254,000 miles, show that the roads received an increase of more than $35,000,000 over October, 1915. Expenses increased approximately $23,000,000, leaving a net increase after deducting tax accruals and uncollectable revenues of more than $10,000,000.

The chief items of revenue were $245,486,354 received for transportation of freight, and $33,000,000 for passenger fares, both of which exceed the totals of the same month for the last five years.

CAN'T DESTROY UNIONISM.

Boston, Jan. 20.—In 1907 Teamsters' union No. 25 became involved in a four-months' strike, and the employers attempted to destroy this organization. The union emerged from the contest with a membership reduced but with a spirit unconquered. Times have changed since 1907, however, and when employers now recently attempted in this same organization's demand an agreement was signed which provides for the first time for the union shop. A general wage increase of 42 a week is secured, as is the abolishment of Sunday and holiday work in stables. Full pay for all holidays and double time if they work on holidays is assured.

PICTURE OPERATORS ENJOINED.

Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 20.—At the request of several moving picture houses Judge Rodenbeck has issued a temporary injunction restraining the Moving Picture Operators' union, who have notified the public that these houses are not going to employ members of the union.

While the managers do not deny the right of labor to act this and similar statements tend to "destroy and injure the business of the plaintiffs."

Acting on the theory that these managers are guilty of a secret conspiracy on the patronage of unionists and their sympathizers, the court refuses the operators in their publicity campaign.

GOMPERS TESTIMONIAL JAN. 28.

New York, Jan. 20.—Practically all arrangements are completed for the dinner in this city, Jan. 28, in honor of the anniversary of President Gompers' golden wedding, his sixty-seventh birthday and 47 years of active service in the labor union movement, reports Ernest Bohm, secretary of the joint committee in charge of the observance of these events. He suggests that those desiring to attend the dinner make their reservations at once to the secretary, 710 Bartholdi building, 2 East Twenty-third street, New York city. Tables for groups of 10 may be reserved.

"SANDWICH MAN" BARRED.

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 20.—The city commissioners have decreed that the "sandwich man" is unsightly and "un-American," and is henceforth barred from the streets of Trenton. The unions have used this publicity method most effectively, and the Trades Union Advocate says:

"A 'sandwich man' is not more 'unsightly' or 'un-American' than the picture of a striking carpenter, under employe shivering with the cold on account of receiving insufficient wages to buy proper food or sufficient clothing."

KENTUCKY UNIONISTS MEET.

Owensboro, Ky., Jan. 20.—Progress in organization during the past year by delegates to the Kentucky State Federation of Labor, which met in this city, is reported. The initiative and referendum was indorsed and Ashland was selected as the next convention city. Edward Hogan was re-elected president and F. J. Campbell of Louisville, secretary-treasurer.

COURTS ASKED TO REFORM.

New York, Jan. 20.—"By all means let the courts reform court procedure. They can do it; no one else can," is the opinion of the New York Evening World, which says: "If bench and bar demand changes in the law, or legislation, it will be done. Neither group commonly are lawyers will unquestionably grant them."

BOILER MAKERS GAIN.

Montreal, Quebec, Jan. 20.—Boiler Makers' union No. 194 has signed a one-year's agreement with the Canadian Vickers company. Hours are reduced 50 to nine, wages are increased 7 1-2 and 10 cents an hour and the union is recognized. The agreement is the first secured by a score of departments that are controlled by this union.

RETAIL CLERKS ADVANCE.

LaFayette, Ind., Jan. 20.—In review-ing labor gains made last year by the Retail Clerks' International Protective Association, President Neil Regan says more than 80 charters have been issued and of the 25 strikes inaugurated all but one has been satisfactorily adjusted.

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYES UNITE.

Chicago, Jan. 20.—Nearly 500 workers employed in the various departments of the federal government, have organized a local union to be chartered by the A. F. of L.

LABOR PUBLICITY URGED.

New York, Jan. 20.—At a conference of trade unionists, called for the purpose of insuring greater publicity for the workers' cause, President Gompers said:

"In my judgment, much can be done by sympathetic, systematic and cooperative work. There is no reason in the world, other than that of carelessness, negligence, or ignorance, or both, to stop in between the labor movement and a successful press that shall have its influence upon the judgment of all the people—nothing but our own negligence, or ignorance, or both.

"As between John Jones, and Bill Smith, the newspapers may be entirely impartial, and present to their readers an entirely fair account. When editorially discussing the subject they may deal with it with a fine judicial temperament.

"But when a question arises ranging on the one end the interests of the employers as such, and on the other end the workers as such, the newspaper editor views every bit of the subject from his own interest, interprets the whole procedure from the standard of his own interests."

PITTSBURG'S BIG PROBLEM.

Pittsburg, Pa., Jan. 20.—No city in the country has been subjected to greater to unrestricted immigration than has Pittsburg, which is now awakening to the cost it must pay. The federal bureau of naturalization reports that there are about 80,000 aliens in this city who are over 21 years of age, and 30,000 of them are unable to speak English.

This statement has aroused Pittsburg citizens, many of whom have become immensely wealthy through the employment of these poorly-paid illiterates. All kinds of "Americanization" schemes are being thought up, one mention is made of the value of a living wage by "patriots" who now talk of "the perpetuity of our glorious institutions."

TEST UP TO PRESIDENT

Washington, Jan. 20.—Last Tuesday the house accepted the report of conferees on the immigration restriction bill. The bill was passed by the house March 30, 1916, by a vote of 307 to 67. It passed the senate December 19, 1916, by a vote of 64 to 7. While the literacy test was not disputed, minor differences between the two branches necessitated a conference and the report of the conferees has been accepted and the bill is now before the president.

Three chief executives—Presidents Wilson, Taft, and Cleveland—have vetoed immigration restriction bills because of the literacy provision. On February 6, 1913, the latter sustained four vetoes of non-concurring in President Wilson's veto.

OPPOSE COURT CHANGE.

New York, Jan. 20.—At the fortieth meeting of the New York State Bar association it was called "astounding" that a bill had been presented in the senate a man who holds such views on the United States supreme court as expressed by Senator Root, presented a joint resolution in the senate which provides that any federal judge who shall file an act of congress unconstitutional shall be declared an usurper and that his office shall be declared vacant.

In the resolution Senator Owen has called attention to the historical fact that the convention which drew up the present federal constitution rejected three different proposals to empower federal judges to review acts of congress.

A FAREWELL TO CARLSON.

Denver, Jan. 20.—On the retirement of Governor Carlson from private life, because of the expiration of his term of office, the Denver Post said:

"He will soon sink to the low level from which by accident he was elevated and pass out of public view, unmissed and unremembered, except as the very worst governor that Colorado ever had—and we have had some bum ones."

The above sentiment will be agreed to by the trade unionists who have protested times without number against Carlson's attitude during the miners' strike in the southern section of the state.

PEONAGE IN TEXAS IS CHARGED.

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 20.—Federal Judge Meek has instructed the grand jury of the Galveston district to investigate in possession of the district attorney that peonage exists in the northern portion of the state.

The court read from letters in which it is charged that the owners of farms will permit negroes to leave their employment on the ground that they are indebted to them, and that they will be let only after they are arrested, convicted and returned to the land owner to work out their "fines."

LONG HOURS INCREASE.

Washington, Jan. 20.—The railroads of this country violated the federal eight-hour law 73,000 times during the past fiscal year, reports the interstate commerce commission. This is an excess of 25 per cent over the preceding year, when 59,894 railroad employes were on duty more than 16 hours.

The number of railroad employes who worked in excess of nine hours during 1916 totaled 16,967, against 11,516 the previous year.

COMPENSATION LAW UPHELD.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan. 20.—The state supreme court has upheld the state workmen's compensation act in a unanimous decision. The court holds that changes in the law, or repeal thereof, are in order if experience proves them to be necessary, may be made by the law-making body.

BOILER MAKERS STAND FIRM.

Cleveland, Jan. 20.—Boiler makers are standing firm in their strike against the Cleveland Shipbuilding company. The company officials have failed to break this movement by offers to deal with individual workers. The strike started December 11 last.

SET A $24 SCALE.

Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 20.—Steam Engineers' local No. 17 has secured a wage scale of $24 a week for an eight-hour day, six days a week. Overtime will be time and one-half and double time for holidays and Sunday work.

CARPENTERS TO RAISE WAGES.

Superior, Wis., Jan. 20.—Carpenters' union has voted to raise wages 5 cents an hour, same to take effect May 1.

"ARTIFICIAL OPINION CREATED IN STRIKES" SAYS A. F. OF L. CHIEF

Washington, Jan. 20.—"It is not yet understood how perfectly safe freedom is," declared President Gompers in opposition to compulsion in industrial disputes, at a hearing before the senate committee on interstate commerce.

"The thought underlying all this species of legislation," said the A. F. of L. executive, "is how to tie men to their tasks, how to take from men some of their new-found freedom. For ages and ages employers of the world were masters of all their surveyed. Government has always been on the side of the employers, but the workers, through organization and education, have established new concepts and have insisted upon new relations. Now it is proposed that the government step in to in some way revert back to old orders.

"If this legislation, in its mildest form, is passed, it is only the forerunner of what will be to follow.

Senator Newlands, chairman of the committee and an advocate of compulsion, suggested that a public opinion would be possible if the facts in industrial disputes were known. President Gompers replied that public opinion in these cases is "manufactured" by newspapers and magazines that are practically all owned by opponents of the workers. He cited the denial of the Pennsylvania railroad crew law by a referendum vote recently, when newspapers made no presentation of the issues involved, but a similar campaign to repeal the Pennsylvania full crew law was also rejected by a vote of 3 to 1. Public opinion against the workers, and a referendum vote on a bond issue, for instance, where the economic interests of all the newspaper owners are not identical. In the latter case, the industrial status, it is possible for both sides of the question to be presented in a comprehensive manner for the voters' enlightenment.

President Gompers said that if congress did not pass an eight-hour law last September and a general railroad strike was called, an adjustment would be reached in 24 hours.

"In my judgment, with the information I have on the subject, this would be the extent of the strike," he said.

"I am pleading more than I am trying to organize labor. I am not introduce into our system of government any form of compulsion in the relations of man and man, of employer and employe. If that step be taken it will be followed by others in attitude and action, and will be wiped out in time, but I am fearful how it would be wiped out. It might be by a revulsion of feeling; it might be by a revolt."

MR. ROCKEFELLER'S NEW VIEWS

Ithaca, N. Y., Jan. 20.—The fight organized coal miners made in Colorado, for recognition and political autocracy, has had its effect on the mind of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who stated, in an address at Cornell university, that "it is regretable that the public here are capitalists who regard labor as their legitimate prey, from which they are justified in getting all they can for as little as may be.

"If in the days to come," he told the students, "you are to deal with labor, you will put yourself in the other man's place and govern your action by what you would have done to you, were you the employe instead of the employer. The problem of the establishment of the personal relation in industry will be solved."

HERE IS REAL "GENEROSITY."

Everett, Wash., Jan. 20.—The C.-H. Lumber & Shingle company has employed strikebreakers for several months in its fight against organized labor, and has refused to sign a scale to enforce a uniform wage scale. The company says it appreciates faithful service, loyalty and steadiness, and its present force and has prepared an individual contract to be signed by each employe in the company agrees to pay, in addition to regular wages, a bonus of 5 per cent of net profits for the year 1917.

The company makes it clear that it reserves the right to at any time discontinue the services of the employe for any reason it may see fit, none of which it is to be the sole judge."

STRIKEBREAKERS INDICTED.

Springfield, Mo., Jan. 20.—Several strikebreakers employed by the Springfield Traction company have been indicted by a grand jury for dynamiting the car tracks.

The general manager of the company is one of the bondsmen for the strikebreakers.

The strike has been on for three months and was caused by an attempt to double the work day.

A cook employed in the strikebreakers' commissary has testified that fights are frequently staged between them. It is reported things who have been known to offer passengers $5 to work for them at the mines. They make no pretense of turning their day's collections into the company's offices.

OHIO MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Tiffin, Ohio, Jan. 20.—Machinists employed by the Webster Manufacturing company suspended work as a result of a demand for a nine-hour day, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sunday and holidays. This concern had a strike with its iron molders recently which was broken when a committee of both of the company's imported gunmen and strikebreakers who attempted to terrify the city.

BOILER MAKERS STAND FIRM.

Cleveland, Jan. 20.—Boiler makers are standing firm in their strike against the Cleveland Shipbuilding company. The company officials have failed to break this movement by offers to deal with individual workers. The strike started December 11 last.

SET A $24 SCALE.

Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 20.—Steam Engineers' local No. 17 has secured a wage scale of $24 a week for an eight-hour day, six days a week. Overtime will be time and one-half and double time for holidays and Sunday work.

CARPENTERS TO RAISE WAGES.

Superior, Wis., Jan. 20.—Carpenters' union has voted to raise wages 5 cents an hour, same to take effect May 1.